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October 2, 2000

Honorable Wayne L. Peterson  
Superior Court of San Diego  
220 W. Broadway  
San Diego, CA 92101

CITY OF  
**ESCONDIDO**  
700 WEST GRAND AVE.  
ESCONDIDO, CA 92025

Re: San Diego County Grand Jury 1999-2000 Recommendation #00-63

Dear Judge Peterson:

This letter is in response to the requirements governed by California Penal Code Section 933(c), which requires a public agency to respond to the recommendations of the San Diego County Grand Jury's inspection of "public prisons." The Grand Jury inspected the detention facility of the Escondido Police Department and made the recommendation that Escondido cover the bars of the cell doors with a covering, which will preclude the possibility of suicide.

The San Diego County Grand Jury 1999-2000 final report stated that the cell doors are metal bars that could be used to facilitate suicide. The Grand Jury's report further reported that other lock ups have been required to cover such bars with wire mesh to preclude that possibility.

The Escondido Police Department agrees with the finding of the San Diego County Grand Jury, and has begun the constructive steps necessary to comply with the Grand Jury's recommendation. The City's building maintenance department is in the process of installing the wire mesh on each of the temporary holding cells. It is anticipated that the work on this project will be completed within approximately 30 days from the date of this letter.

The Escondido Police Department wishes to extend their sincere appreciation to the Grand Jury for their assistance in this matter. If our agency can be of any further service, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

DUANE D. WHITE  
CHIEF OF POLICE

John W. Houchin, Lieutenant  
Standard and Ethics Unit

JWH:eb

Lori Holt Pfeiler, Mayor  
Keith E. Beier, Mayor Pro Tern  
Jerry Kaufman  
June Rady  
Marie Waldron